The medium-sized fields would be developed through joint ventures between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., (ONGC)/Oil India Limited (OIL) on the one hand and private companies on the other. ONGC/OIL would take a 40% share in the venture. The small-sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts. In both cases, companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess, etc. Foreign companies would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50%, while Indian companies would be governed by the relevant provisions of the Income-tax Act. In addition private companies would share profit oil with the Government.

(c) Proposals for award of 2 small sized fields under first offer, 6 medium and 14 small sized fields under 2nd offer are under consideration of Government of India. These are likely to be finalised shortly.

(d) Complete transparency has been followed in evaluating and awarding these contracts.

U.S. threat to India

624. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Government have recently warned India that conducting of nuclear tests by the country would provoke severe sanctions against it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the U.S. threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In response to US media reports of alleged preparation by India for a nuclear test, the US State Department in a press release stated, inter alia, that the US Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, 1994 mandates severe sanctions on any non-nuclear weapon state which detonates a nuclear device. This was not conveyed in any official demarche by the US Government to the Government of India on this matter.

(c) In a statement in New Delhi, the official Spokesman stated that the US media reports were highly speculative.

Gas supplied by GAIL to Maharashtra

625. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: (a) the quantum of natural gas being supplied every month to the State of Maharashtra by the Gas Authority of India Ltd;

(b) whether the State Government has since requested for allocating more natural gas for its various gas based projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to increase the quota of natural gas to the State as per its demand; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Currently around 13 MMSCMD of natural gas is being supplied to projects in Maharashtra by the Gas Authority of India Limited.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Requests for additional allocations have been received from the State Government from time to time including a request for an additional allocation of 30 MMSCMD to various projects in the State.

(d) and (e) The gas projected to be available is fully allocated and it is not feasible to make additional allocations at present.

रुग्ण खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों को पुनः चालू करने हेतु कदम उठाया जाना

626. श्री रामजी लाल: क्या खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों की राज्यवार संख्या कितनी है, उनमें से कितने चल रहे हैं तथा कितने रुग्ण हैं तथा उनकी रुग्णता के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उन्हें अर्थक्षम बनाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के. पी. सिंह देव): (क) और (ख) खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग संगठित और असंगठित दोनों क्षेत्रों में है इसलिए घाटे में चल रहे खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों समेत सभी खाद्य

प्रसंस्करण उद्योगों की संख्या के संबंध में सूचना इस मंत्रालय द्वारा नहीं रखी जाती। रुग्ण यूनिटें पुनः चालू/बंद होने के लिए औद्योगिक तथा वित्तीय पुनर्निमाण बोर्ड से संपर्क कर सकती हैं।

Supreme Court's Ruling regarding Chakma Refugees

627. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court gave a ruling recently that there should be no forcible eviction of Chakma refugees from Arunchal Pradesh;

(b) whether subsequently there were agitations in the State that the Chakmas should be repatriated; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the above developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court, by its order dated 9.1.1996, has directed, interalia, that the life and personal liberty of each and every Chakma residing within the State shall be protected and that, except in accordance with law the Chakmas shall not be evicted from their homes. Certain groups in Arunachal Pradesh have expressed their resentment in this regard.

Earlier, on 29.12.1995, orders were issued constituting a High Level Group under the Chairmanship of the Union Home Minister to look into the backgroud of the issue of Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh and identify the course of action to be adopted. The Group, in its meeting held on 5.1.1996, decided to set up an official level Sub-Committee to suggest the course of action which could be adopted expeditiously for a resolution of the problem. The Sub-Committee was also expected to visit Arunahcal Pradesh.

On a reference from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, The State Government has been informed that the High Level Group and the Sub-Committee can continue to carry on their work but such work will have to be in aid of the directions given by the Supreme Court, and not in derogation thereof. As such, the State Government has been requested to indicate its convenience for continuing the work of the Sub-Committee, which includes a visit to the State.

Offer by Finland to Strengthen Telecom Services

628. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Finalnd has recently offered to assist India in its efforts to strengthen its telecom services;

(b) if so, what is Government's response to this offer;

(c) whether Government have accorded approval to the proposals of foreign capital investment; and

(d) if so, the details of each such proposals and the investment to be made in each such case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Three investment proposals from one private organisation from Finalnd have been received by the Govt., Sir.

(b) and (c) All the three proposals have been approved by the Govt.

(d) (i) A proposal for setting up a 100% Indian subsidiary of the Finnish Company with initial investment of US $ 3 million.

(ii) A joint venture proposal for foreign direct investment of 1 million.

(iii) A joint venture proposal with a State Undertaking. However this proposal has not been implemented so far.

India's suggestions to overcome the Resource Crunch of the UN

629. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that India is the largest supplier of goods and services to the UN since its inception 50 years ago;

(b) if so, what steps Government have so